

# Personal Protective Equipment

## WEAR THE GEAR

You are skilled at your job, and you are careful about working safely. But sometimes all that stands between you and an injury is your personal protective equipment (PPE).



## YOUR ROLE

In order for your personal protective equipment to do its job, you have to wear it properly and consistently. You also have to take good care of it so it will work properly in a crisis.

Your employer's responsibility is to remove as many hazards as possible. Your employer must have the correct personal protective equipment on hand for the hazards, and instruct you in its use and care.

### Eye protection

There is no such thing as a second chance when it comes to accidents involving your eyes. That's why it is important to wear eye protection every time, all the time.

### Foot protection

Proper safety footwear can help you avoid twists and strains, prevent slips and protect your feet from falling objects and boot sole punctures.

### Hand protection

Inspect your gloves before each shift and replace them if they are torn, cracked, worn or damaged. Make sure your gloves are the right size and type for the job.

### Face protection

Full face shields protect the eyes and face and are recommended for workers who may come in contact with splashing liquids or flying objects.

### Head protection

Hardhats are standard issue in many workplaces. They must be fitted securely on the top of the head with the brim facing forward and the bands adjusted.

### Hearing protection

Exposure to excessive noise may create permanent hearing loss. To protect yourself, wear earplugs that are comfortable and fit well.

## 3 good reasons to wear protective gear

- A metal fragment flying off a grinder or an acid splash can happen in an instant and cause a lifelong eye injury. The right kind of protective eyewear for your job can prevent this from happening.
- A tool can tumble off a workbench or you can drop a piece of metal on your foot.
- By wearing your safety-toed footwear all the time when you work, you can prevent a painful injury.
- A piece of rock can fall from a mine tunnel roof or an item of stock can slide off a high storage shelf. If you are wearing your required hardhat, it will be dented instead of your head.

## DID you KNOW?

Workplaces today generally are safer than ever, thanks largely to the widespread use of personal protective equipment (PPE) designed to keep workers safe and injury-free. Your job is to wear the correct PPE as directed by your supervisor, to inspect it regularly for defects and to care for it properly. It will be ready to protect you when you need it!